

	Survival A-3		Zoo B-1		Volleyball C-1
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Operation Scimitar cuts down insurgent activity

Cpl. Rick Nelson
2nd Marine Division

CAMP KOREAN VILLAGE, Iraq — Marines and Sailors assigned to Task Force Tarawa began Operation Southern Scimitar in the early morning of May 19, in order to sweep and clear their area of insurgent activity.

The operation was conducted due to reports of an enemy presence in a region east of Rutbah.

“Task Force Tarawa, First (Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion) and the Iraqi Highway Patrol were all involved in the joint operation,” said

Gunnery Sgt. Frank M. Impagliazzo, motor transport operations chief, Task Force Tarawa. “The IHPs patrolled north while LAR was sweeping east to west pushing enemy activity through several coalition phase lines.”

During the operation, Impagliazzo's unit was used for Combat Service Support, supplying the units with fuel, food and other needed materials.

“We provided approximately 500 gallons of jet petroleum fuel to the sweeping units throughout the operation,” he added. “We helped in many



Cpl. Rick Nelson

Staff Sgt. Matthew D. Seaburn, staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge, Police Training Team 22, observes a map to see how far the Iraqi Police have patrolled during Operation Southern Scimitar May 18. During the operation the IP's played a significant role, clearing out a large area East of Rutbah.

ways. We had maintenance and armory parts and used all we had to help to keep the mobile force going, but the overall goal of the operation was to flush out any activity and to show a presence in the area, so the

enemy would know ‘hey if you go out there and set something up, we’re going to find it.’”

The Iraqi Highway Patrol played a big part in the operation, setting up vehicle check-points in case insur-

gents tried to escape, said Staff Sgt. Matthew D. Seaburn, staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge, Police Training Team 22.

See CUT, A-2

Marines head to Yuma

Lance Cpl. Edward C. deBree
Combat Correspondent

Approximately 70 Marines and Sailors assigned to Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463 departed from Marine Corps Base Hawaii to Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., to participate in a deployment before training exercise, May 25.

The Marines will spend approximately three weeks training in the desert environment to prepare them in case another deployment to Operation Iraqi Freedom occurs.

The squadron will ship four of their CH-53D Sea Stallions to Yuma to help them participate in the academic package that the squadron will go through to help them in desert operations, said Capt. Joseph Overstake, legal officer, HMH-463.

“We’re doing a pre-Desert Talon exercise,” said Cpl. Scot T. Staples, crew chief and weapons training instructor, HMH-463. “We’re not going to actually do Desert Talon but the sort of the work ups for Desert Talon. This is basically all the academic stuff.”

The squadron will spend their time in Yuma to train their crew chiefs to work in the desert environment and their pilots to fly in the desert’s harsh conditions.



Lance Cpl. Edward C. deBree

Marines and Sailors assigned to Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463 wait for their flight at Marine Corps Air Facility, May 25. Approximately 70 Marines and Sailors left for Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., to participate in a deployment before training exercise to train in a desert environment.

One challenge Staples said the pilots will have to face is what is known as a brown out, which is when a helicopter gets close to the ground and engulfs itself in a sand cloud.

“This is very valuable training for the squadron,” said the 22-year-old native of Roseville, Calif. “One other thing that we’re going to be doing, which I think is the main thing, is teaching them how to do real raids. I did

See YUMA, A-4

CBS highlights Defense Department program

Samantha L. Quigley
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — “The Early Show” on CBS took advantage of New York’s 20th annual Fleet Week to share its support and appreciation for the thousands of sailors and Marines enjoying the city, as well as for military members serving around the world.

John Bolaris, who was filling in for The Early Show’s regular meteorologist, introduced viewers to the Defense Department’s America Supports You program.

“We want to tell you about a special program devoted to the sacrifice that the servicemen and women do for our country and how much the American people appreciate their sacrifice,” Bolaris said.

America Supports You connects citizens and corporations with military personnel and their families serving at home and abroad. It began in November 2004, and boasts dozens of corporate supporters and more than 250 home-front groups that work to support service members worldwide.

“You probably understand how important it is for our military men and women to know that America supports them (and) appreciates the sacrifices that they’re making,” Roxie Merritt, an America Supports You spokeswoman and a retired Navy captain, said. “(It’s) hard to tell sometimes when you’re overseas and watching the news that you really are truly supported back here.”

See CBS, A-6



Courtesy photo

John Bolaris of CBS’s “The Early Show” talks with Roxie Merritt about the America Supports You program May 24 in New York during Fleet Week. Merritt, a spokeswoman for the Defense Department program and a retired Navy captain, shared how America Supports You offers Americans a venue to support service members.

Base clinic offers HPV vaccination

Lance Cpl. Regina A. Ruisi
Combat Correspondent

The base immunizations clinic now offers Gardasil, the genital human papillomavirus vaccine.

The vaccine helps protect against four major types of HPV, a sexually transmitted disease that can cause genital warts or cervical cancer in women.

According to the Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention (CDC), HPV is the most common STD in the United States, infecting about 6.2 million people each year. More than 50 percent of sexually active men and women become infected at some time in their lives.

There are 40 types of HPV, and most infections don’t cause any symptoms. Certain types of HPV can cause cervical cancer in women.

According to CDC, more

than 10,000 women each year get cervical cancer, and more than 3,500 die from it. Two types of HPV cause about 70 percent of cervical cancer.

The HPV vaccine helps protect against the two types of infection that cause cervical cancer, and the two types of virus that cause 90 percent of genital warts.

The vaccination was made available to K-Bay service members and dependents approximate-

ly four months ago, said Petty Officer 2nd Class Scott Kuniyuki, a hospital corpsman at the immunization clinic. The three-shot series is available to women ages nine through 26 and doctors usually recommend it to women who fall in that age range, he said.

“The base started giving the vaccinations because it’s becoming more and more popular

See HPV, A-6

News Briefs

Semper Fit Closures

Kaneohe Bay Semper Fit Center basketball and racquetball courts will be closed Jun. 4-10 for maintenance. The courts will re-open on Jun. 11. For more information, please contact the Semper Fit Center at 254-7597.

New Clinic Central Appointment Number

In an effort to streamline services and provide greater access to care for beneficiaries of Makalapa and Kaneohe Bay Branch Health Clinics, there will be one combined central appointment line. Medical appointments for either clinic can be scheduled by dialing 473-0247 between 6 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Weekend same-day appointments are available at either Makalapa or Kaneohe Bay Branch Health Clinics by calling 473-0247 between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Saturdays and between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Sundays.

Naval Health Clinic Hawaii does have an After-hours Provider Advice Line that enables beneficiaries to speak with a medical provider anytime the clinics are closed. This service is accessed simply by calling the above central appointment phone number and there is an option to speak with an answering service who will contact an after-hours provider. The provider will return a beneficiary's call within the hour.

Increased Air Noise

Residents may notice an increase to noise levels at Marine Corps Air Facility now through Monday due to annual training from the Marine Corps Reserves.

Weekly Legal Brief

A new weekly brief to aid Marines, Sailors and civilian personnel on Wills and Powers of Attorney will be held at the Legal Services Center, Legal Assistance Office, every Wednesday at 10 a.m. Also included are some important tips on wills and powers of attorney.

Recruiter Assistants Needed

The Marine Corps Recruiting Station in Harrisburg, Pa. is looking for motivated Marines to serve as recruiter assistants. RS Harrisburg covers the following counties in Pennsylvania: Fulton, Franklin, Perry, Cumberland, Adams, York, Dauphin, Lebanon, Lancaster, Chester, Berks, Schuylkill, Wyoming, Luzerne, Lackawanna, Wayne, Pike, Monroe, Northampton, Carbon, Lehigh, Bucks, Montgomery, Philadelphia and Delaware.

For more information about the recruiter assistance program in your hometown area, contact Staff Sgt. Christopher Cunningham at (717) 770-6637.

CLICK IT or TICKET

Hawaii Marine urges its readers to buckle up. It's an easy habit to learn that may some day save your life and the life of your passenger(s). Remember, each and every time you get into your vehicle, reach for your seatbelt. Make it one of those good habits that you won't want to break.

Important Phone Numbers:

On-Base Emergencies	911
Military Police	257-7114
Child Protective Service	832-5300
Fraud, Waste, Abuse & EEO	257-8852
Business Management Hotline	257-3188
Pothole & Streetlight Repair	257-2380
Base Information	449-7110
MCBH Duty Chaplain	257-7700
DEERS	257-2077

Hawaii MARINE

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Submit items for *Hawaii Marine* to the managing editor no later than noon on the Friday prior to publication, using the following address:

HAWAII MARINE, BOX 63062, BUILDING 216,
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Old school



Lance Cpl. Regina A. Ruisi

The Army Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps performed with the Marine Forces Pacific band at a special morning colors ceremony at Dewey Square here Friday. The Fife and Drum Corps wears uniforms patterned after Continental Army musician uniforms to keep the American tradition and heritage alive.

Thairide: Picassos of the pavement



Cpl. Mark Fayloga

Combat Correspondent

As I was driving out the back gate the other day I had to battle inner demons. The road was wide open. Nobody behind me and nobody in front of me, clear all the way to the exit.

I've already gotten one speeding ticket on the same exact road. So, while every inch of my being was thirsting for a little speed, a little haste, my eyes bounced back and forth from the clear and open road to my speedometer making sure I was maintaining a speed of roughly 23 miles per hour.

As I drove along cursing the posted 25 mph speed limit signs I found myself thinking something I never, ever thought I would ...

"I miss Thailand."

I recently returned from Thailand after participating in Exercise Cobra Gold. Like most service members headed to the 'Land of Smiles' I was regaled with many stories and anecdotes from saltier Devil Dogs who had been there. Mostly the sto-

ries involved poverty, degeneracy and other general tales of ordinary madness.

However, one major cultural difference in Thailand was never shared with me and it's the one thing that has stood out in my mind most about my time there.

Thai people are brilliant drivers. They are poetic madmen behind the wheel. On a two-hour drive to Bangkok my driver broke every conceivable American driving regulation.

It was a thing of beauty and it wasn't just him. Every Thai drives like this. From what I was able to pick up from the driver's English is that Thai people don't have traffic school. When they learn to drive they simply learn from their family. I can only assume that things are the way they are now after generation of generation of demolition-derby style driving was taught to each new era of Thai motorists.

Though the roads have clearly marked lanes it means nothing to them. They simply drift in and out of every possible open space - over highway medians, nearly skimming concrete shoulders and effortlessly cruising off the road and along an empty field to pass slower 18-wheelers.

Defense is not an option. Defense is for the weak. Anyone wanting to see natural selection in action needs to go no further than a Thai highway where only the strong survive.

I first realized I was smitten with the Thai way of driving when cruising along a Thai highway in the front seat of a 16-person van. The vehicle's driver kept an emotionless expression on his face as he drove along throwing all caution, safety and sanity to the wind.

I looked around the van to see if anyone else noticed the horror of it all. Oddly, most of the passengers were sleep-

ing while the others were busy with magazines and books.

"What's wrong with these people?" I thought to myself. "Don't they know how close to death they are?"

I gritted my teeth and watched in silence as the driver tore along the road. At one particular pants-wettingly worthy moment we were slowed a bit by two big rigs in front of us. To our left was a family of four cozily stacked atop a scooter. The patriarch (and only one wearing a helmet) was the driver. Behind him a young girl, looking oddly comfortable, was sandwiched between him and her mother who was sitting sidesaddle and holding an infant to her chest.

Rather than stay behind the big rigs at a comfortable speed our driver decided to just squeeze through, even if it was only a two lane highway. With his foot on the pedal and my life in his hands he darted forward. And magically, although the big rigs barely moved, an immeasurable amount of movement. We still managed to come zooming out of the other end, unscathed and flying at over 120 kilometers an hour.

It may sound like Thai drivers are all just a bunch of bags driving without regard for one another, but it's quite the opposite. In all of my time there I didn't see even a hint of animosity. In fact I believe the average American driver displays more road rage in a week than any hundred combined Thai drivers display in a lifetime.

Sure Thai driving is risky and even a bit insane, but somehow I never saw a single accident. All vehicles, whether it's the big rigs, vans, trucks or shirtless, flip flop-wearing scooterists...they all move as a single unit. There is no one vehicle on the road as much as it is a single giant organism roaming the country's pavement.

CUT, from A-1

"Their main objective was to block Mobile Road to make sure insurgents didn't try to flee once they realized the operation was going on," said Seaburn. "This was the longest the IHPs patrolled, but we completed our mission very well with no one hurt, but there is always a threat of a vehicle-borne IED (improvised explosive devices) when doing the check-points."

Seaburn, a Dellroy, Ohio, native, said the IHP were involved in a firefight in the same area a few weeks prior and knew there were insurgents in the area.

"I think the IHPs did a great job with the check-points," said Maj. Alli Ayed Abd, an officer with the Iraqi Highway Patrol. "The only thing I think that could have been done differently is allowing more members of the IHP to patrol with the Marines, because they know the area and the people and may have been able to find out more intelligence from the locals."

Prior to TFT and the Highway Patrol's departure, a clearing team was sent out to clear the area before they arrived at their battle space, said Impagliazzo, a Scitvate, R.I., native.

"While we were out there I think the Marines did a pretty good job and let the people know that if they're a part of any enemy activity to stay out of this part of the country," said the 38-year-old. "The operation was originally planned for five days, but things went smoothly and only ended up being two days. But you never know what could happen in a split second, which is what keeps the Marines from becoming complacent."

During the operation two detainees were brought in for questioning and there were no combat related injuries, so it was a success, added Impagliazzo.

"It was a very organized operation and the Marines and Sailors performed excellently," said Impagliazzo. "I wished more bad guys would've been caught, but as far as the operation went, all of us went out there and did exactly what we were supposed to do. There's no way to even show on paper what a show of force does for a unit and the area and what operations like this do for the Iraqi people."

Task Force Tarawa is part of Regimental Combat Team 2, a Marine Corps command responsible for more than 30,000 square miles and 5,500 Marines, Sailors and Soldiers in Iraq's Al Anbar province.

Weekend weather outlook

Today



Day — Scattered showers before noon. Partly cloudy, with a high near 83. East wind around 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Night — Mostly clear, with a low around 73. Southwest wind around 7 mph.

High — 83

Low — 73

Saturday



Day — Mostly sunny, with a high near 82. Southwest wind 7 to 9 mph becoming northeast.

Night — Mostly clear, with a low around 73. Southwest wind around 7 mph.

High — 82

Low — 73

Sunday



Day — Scattered showers after 10am. Partly cloudy, with a high near 82. Southwest wind 7 to 10 mph becoming northeast. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Night — A 20 percent chance of showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 72. East wind around 8 mph.

High — 82

Low — 72



Marines took a stab at amateur 'cobra-charming,' volunteering to demonstrate the proper way to pick up a snake during a crash course in jungle survival while in Thailand May 14.

Thai Marines teach jungle survival

Story and Photos by
Sgt. Ethan E. Roche
MCB Camp Butler

BAN CHAN KREM TRAINING AREA, Thailand — Cockroaches, grasshoppers and grubs taste like burnt chicken skin. Bamboo and a lot of elbow grease will start a fire. Chicken necks are not very resilient. Cobras take it personally when people don't look them in the eye.

In a small, backwoods training area in the heart of Thailand's vast subtropical landscape, dozens of Okinawa-based Marines learned those lessons and more May 14 during a crash course in jungle survival during Cobra Gold 2007.

Over Cobra Gold's 26-year history, the day of survival training has become the must-see event for Marines who participate in the field training.

After about a week in the quasi-field conditions at the Ban Chan Krem Training Area — living in concrete squad bays with little relief from the hot, humid and rainy climate — eating bugs and seeing cobras was enough to make the III Marine Expeditionary Force Marines and Sailors look like natives in the land of smiling faces.

Napa, Calif., native Cpl. Garrett Bain, fire direction control specialist, 12th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, summed up his feelings of the event.

"This is easily a highlight of my life," he said.

Thailand sent some of its finest warriors to host the training, which played out somewhat like an episode of Fear Factor in the

way it started off mild and progressively ratcheted up the tests of bravado.

Sitting in a semi-circle formation in the woods, the U.S. Marines learned from a man best described as the Thai Crocodile Dundee. Thai Master Chief Petty Officer Pranom Yodrud, a 27-year reconnaissance veteran and jungle survival expert, held the Marines' attention, using the universal language of humor to compensate for broken English.

After the lesson on Thailand's climate, Yodrud showed dozens of examples of plants, vegetables and fruits people can survive on and several water collection methods.

Several American Marines played taste tester as Yodrud kept them guessing about how they should react. Their faces told the story: Squinty eyes and pursed lips meant bitter and unpleasant; wide eyes and elevated eyebrows meant "not bad." Most reactions got a chuckle from the man feeding mystery plants to the crowd.

U.S. Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Charles Edkins, hospital corpsman, Combat Assault Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, opened wide when Yodrud shoved a bag of gray fruit flesh in his face.

"It's good," Edkins said. "The texture is like caviar, but there's no real flavor."

Plants and fruits gave way to insect cuisine as the training progressed, and American Marines jumped at the chance to put away some roasted bugs.

"I had a cockroach and a grasshopper, and they didn't taste bad at all," said Dallas native Lance Cpl. Kyle Roberts, heavy equipment operator, 12th Marine

Regiment. "It was pretty cool; they tasted like burnt chicken skin."

The training progressed past the taste tests as two Thai Recon Marines made quick work of starting a fire with nothing but bamboo by rubbing the convex side of one half of a chute on the sharp, rigid edge of another. Two American Marines struggled to mimic the feat until Yodrud eventually had to bring the training back on track, helping them with a pocket lighter.

Thai Chief Petty Officer Piroj Parsansai established himself as a crowd favorite when he served as lead demonstrator in the two most popular portions of the training. When an American Marine failed to pop a chicken's head off with a firm grip, a slight twist and an aggressive windmill swing, Parsansai accomplished the task by

using his teeth and hands and followed the feat with a raucous war cry to encourage cheers from the crowd.

But Parsansai wasn't done. His cobra-catching routine was the much-anticipated highlight of the training. Kneeling down to lock eyes with the snake, his manner changed to almost Zen-like, and Parsansai's charges instantly went silent. Slowly, he reached out to press down on the snake's head, but it resisted. The two locked in a dangerous dance that, at one point, had Parsansai barely dodging one of the snake's deadly strikes. In the end, Parsansai's cool demeanor won over the snake, and he was able to slowly push its head into the dirt and snatch it up in a one-handed grip.

He emptied the snake's venom

into a cup and released the animal back into the circle so Marines could practice the proper way to catch it by the tail.

The beast's inevitable demise followed as the Thais demonstrated how to skin the creature. The head went first, and several Americans followed Parsansai's lead as he performed a Thai warrior tradition of squeezing some of the snake's blood into his mouth.

"Is there anything cooler than drinking cobra blood?" Bain asked after the training. "The Thais are outstanding. The knowledge they passed was awesome, and their willingness to show us their culture, knowledge and traditions has made this a great experience."

Apparently, hardcore is a language both nations' Marines speak fluently.



Cockroaches and other bugs were consumed during jungle survival training.



A Royal Thai Reconnaissance Marine demonstrates how to make fire using bamboo. This is just one lesson U.S. Marines learned during jungle survival.



Petty Officer 3rd Class Charles Edkins, hospital corpsman, 3rd Marine Division, braves some mystery fruit pulp.



Cpl. R. Drew Hendricks

The new walkway completed May 21 connects the U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific headquarters building to the essential parking lots behind it. The old walkway was demolished due to heavy deterioration.

New walkway, improvements for Camp H.M. Smith

Cpl. R. Drew Hendricks
U.S. Marine Forces, Pacific

CAMP H.M. SMITH, Hawaii — Workers at Camp H.M. Smith completed a new walkway to span the gap between the U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific headquarters building and the remote parking lots behind it May 21.

Workers began demolition of the new walkway's ancestor Dec. 4, 2006. The old one was scheduled for demolition because of safety reasons.

According to Edmond Urabe, general engineer for Marine Corps Bases Hawaii facilities, the construction cost nearly \$600,000 and caused some minor inconveniences to vehicle and foot traffic, but it was necessary.

"I used to use the old walkway all the time before they tore it down, it was very convenient," said

Petty Officer 1st Class Rodney Bracey, religious program specialist, MarForPac. "It's great that it's back up because there are a lot of times when the only parking is behind the building."

Areas previously closed behind MarForPac due to the walkway construction are now open and parking is available.

The walkway is not the only project that has been in the works. A team of

workers was already hard at work preparing the MarForPac building for its next overhaul.

The demolition of the old MarForPac medical wing was started before the walkway was completed.



Cpl. R. Drew Hendricks

A view from the newly completed walkway at U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific, shows the deconstruction of the old medical wing. The first phase of the next construction project at MarForPac is to build a new fire department.

The second phase of demolition has begun and is the first stage in the construction of a new fire department.

The plans for the fire department are not set in stone as the new contract

has not yet been finalized.


Thomason Road toward Elrod Road will remain closed during the construction. It will take approximately one year to complete the new fire department.

YUMA, from A-1


one tour in Iraq and in that time I did five raids and I think the new guys need to know how to do that."

Though there is no official word if the squadron will deploy to Iraq, Staples said his squadron will be ready at anytime if they need to go again.


"My philosophy is to practice like you play," he said. "The opportunity to go back to Iraq is always there. I'm always looking forward to go back because I love this job, and I know that my squadron will always be ready."



The Marine Corps Professional Reading Program



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www.mcu.usmc.mil/ProDev/

Ms. United States receives Aloha during visit to base

Story and Photos by
Sgt. Sara A. Carter
Community Relations Chief

Ms. United States, Kayla Downs, took some time during her trip to Hawaii to visit with service members and their children during a visit to Marine Corps Base Hawaii May 23.

After winning her crown in July 2006, Downs has spent her year as Ms. United States supporting two causes she is passionate about: the military and children. She has spent most of her time supporting local charities and has taken the time to visit with service members across the United States.

According to Downs, this was her first visit to a Marine Corps Base.

“I came here to say ‘Thank you’ to the Marines for what they do every day,” said the 23-year-old.

Her visit started with a stop at the Pacific War Memorial. Then she traveled across the flight line to visit with the Sailors of Water Front Operations. Lieutenant Junior Grade Marc Tinaz, officer-in-charge, WFO, gave Downs a brief description of what they do and the history of the waters surrounding the facility.

She was then given a windshield tour of the base and driven to the top of Kansas Tower.

“It is so beautiful here,” she said as she looked around.

After all the sight seeing of the base was complete, she then spent some time at the Child Development Center.

The 3- and 4-year-old children were mesmer-

ized by her sparkly crown and sash.

As Ms. United States bent down to ask a couple of 3-year-old girls “Who’s your favorite princess?” some attempted to touch

the glistening crown. Many succeeded without opposition from Downs.

Following her visit with the 3-year-olds she walked to a class full of 4- and 5-year-olds. They presented her with a handmade flower lei made out of construction paper and straws, and after many hugs, they sang the blond-haired woman two songs.

The next stop was Mokapu Elementary School. As the blue-eyed woman walked the halls of the school students stopped to shake her hand or ask her who she was. As she entered the library a student who was returning to his classroom with his class pointed at Downs and said “Look, a princess.”

The final stop was lunch with the Marines and Sailors at Anderson Hall Dining Facility where she autographed photographs for those who wanted them.

Kaneohe Bay was not the only base she visited while here. She spent three days during her week-long visit to Hawaii touring various military installations on Oahu.

“I just want to say “Thank You” to everyone for what they do,” Downs said as she smiled.

Downs plans on visiting with as many service members as she can until she passes on her crown in July and also plans on going back to college to finish her degree.



Marines from various units aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii eat lunch with Ms. United States, Kayla Downs, at Anderson Dining Facility May 23.



Three-year-old Alyssa Clark touches Ms. United States, Kayla Downs' crown during her visit to the Child Development Center here May 23.



Downs tells the Sailors at Waterfront Operations "Thank you" for all they do.

= AROUND THE CORPS =



Cpl. Wayne Edmiston

Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Robert Magnus stands and listens to a Marine in Al Taqaddum, Iraq. Magnus visited Marines of 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward) to discuss operations and see the current convoy, explosive ordnance disposal and emergency medical capabilities.

Assistant commandant of Corps visits TQ

Cpl. Wayne Edmiston
2nd Marine Logistics Group

AL TAQADDUM, Iraq — The Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. Robert Magnus, visited Marines in Al Taqaddum, Iraq, to discuss operations and see the current combat logistics patrol, explosive ordnance disposal and emergency medical capabilities of 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward).

Magnus began his tour with a brief from Brig. Gen. James Kessler, commanding general of 2nd MLG (Fwd) and Maj. Gen. Walter Gaskin, commanding general of Multi-National Forces-West, about current operations.

Following the meeting, they viewed a static display of current equipment used in operations and talked to the Marines who operate the equipment on the battlefield.

“He looked at the up-armor on our (multi-purpose vehicle). It makes a difference but also adds more weight on to it,” said Cpl. Jaime Moreno, a heavy equipment operator with 8th Engineer Support Battalion, 2nd MLG (Fwd).

He then looked at the current counter-improvised explosive device measures used by

explosive ordnance disposal and motor transportation drivers and got their feedback on what works and what doesn't.

“We showed him how we feel about the equipment we are using out here,” said Lance Cpl. Peter Glenn, a logistical vehicle system operator with 8th ESB. “We also told him some of the new designs don't work as well as the older ones.”

Magnus listened to what the Marines had to say and told them their service is appreciated.

“You guys are saving lives out there and keeping people safe on the roads,” Magnus told a group of Marines displaying equipment.

After seeing the display, Magnus then went to the Taqaddum Surgical Detachment to examine the facility's current life-saving capabilities.

“I have talked to the doctors both at Walter Reed and Bethesda and they say the first major surgical interventions are being done over here,” Magnus said. “In any other war, many patients would not even make it near as far as they are now.”

Taqaddum was one of Magnus' stops on his current tour visiting Marines operating in Al Anbar province.

Hawaii honors military

Maj. Brad Jessmer
Pacific Air Forces Public Affairs

HONOLULU, Hawaii — Members of Oahu's local business community recognized members from all branches of the armed forces today with a luncheon in their honor, and invited Gen. Paul V. Hester, commander of Pacific Air Forces, as the keynote speaker.

The event marked the 22nd annual Military Appreciation Month Luncheon put on by the Military Affairs Committee of the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii, where service members were recognized by local civic leaders at the Hilton Hawaiian Village in Waikiki.

"It is a great opportunity for me as the Pacific Air Forces commander to be with you," Gen. Hester said. "It's a great opportunity to see all the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen who are here and to congratulate them on their service and thank them for their service to our nation world-wide."

During the event, a member from each branch of service was presented a Community Service Award for excellence in community outreach by the Honolulu Chamber of Commerce. These members are; U.S. Army Sgt. First Class Sharlinda Warner, U.S. Navy Petty Officer Diem Ngo, U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Thomas Yaron, U.S. Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Crystal Havey, U.S. Coast Guard Marine Science



Sgt. Sara A. Carter

Gunnery Sgt. Kenneth Altizer, RMS operator, Camp H.M. Smith, accepts a community service award in honor of Staff Sgt. Crystal Havey, joint intelligence center, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific for her contributions to the community.

Technician First Class Elizabeth Yeager, and Hawaii National Guard Senior Airman Ryan Young.

"Hawaii demonstrates community like no other that I've experienced in 36 years," Gen. Hester said.

The Chamber of Commerce also highlighted the Air Force's 60th anniversary by recognizing the Air Force as this year's lead service. After showing a Heritage to Horizons 60th Anniversary video, Chamber president Jim Tollefson said "If I were just a few years younger, I'd re-enlist in the Air Force. If that doesn't pump you up, nothing will."

As the lead service for the appreciation luncheon, the Air Force emceed the event with Col. Tim Saffold of 13th Air

Force and the opening invocation was delivered by PACAF's Deputy Command Chaplain, Col. (Chaplain) Jeff Guild. In addition, the Air Force band of the Pacific performed throughout the event, to include a medley of Service songs to close the luncheon.

In his final comments, Gen. Hester thanked the local community for their support.

"This month is a representation of what we feel every day of the year that we spend in Hawaii," Gen. Hester said. "It's an example of why we know we can leave this island and go forward to do America's business in Iraq or Afghanistan or elsewhere throughout the world; it's because you are the strength that stands behind us."

HPV, from A-1

and people are asking for it," Kuniyuki said.

CDC says it's important for young girls to receive the HPV vaccine before their first sexual contact because there's no chance they've been exposed to the STD. For young women who receive the vaccine before sexual contact, the vaccine can prevent almost 100 percent of the diseases caused by the four types of HPV.

The vaccine does not cause any serious side effects, the CDC said. There could be mild problems like pain at the injection site, moderate fever or an allergic reaction to the vaccine. Pregnant women are warned against the vaccine because the effects of the vaccine on the unborn child are not known.

erate fever or an allergic reaction to the vaccine. Pregnant women are warned against the vaccine because the effects of the vaccine on the unborn child are not known.

To receive the HPV vaccine, women should ask their doctors about it, Kuniyuki said.

“The base feels it's worth putting the money into as a precautionary vaccine that can help protect women from cervical cancer,” he said.

To find out more about HPV and Gardasil, contact the CDC at 1-800-CDC-INFO, or visit CDC's website at www.cdc.gov/std/hpv.

CBS, from A-1

The program's corporate supporters and home-front groups work hard to make sure service members know just how much appreciation they have from home. Among other forms of support, groups send care

packages and provide assistance to deployed service members' families and injured service members working to reintegrate into civilian life.

“America Supports You groups do all kinds of wonderful things for us,” Merritt said against a back-

drop of sailors, Marines and an America Support You banner. Her comments were met with cheers from the service members gathered outside the CBS studios.

“And that support, that morale, is much needed right now,” Bolaris said.

